

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W
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R 081413Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4856

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3031

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WA, PINS

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: SWAPO GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES

REF: PRETORIA 2952

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. GUERRILLA ACTIVITY ALONG ANGOLA BORDER WITH OVAMBOLAND
CONTINUED AT INTENSIVE LEVEL DURING PAST WEEK. SECURITY
FORCES TRACKED REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF TEN
GUERRILLAS WHICH HAD PENETRATED SOUTH OF OVAMBOLAND INTO
THE AREA NEAR TSUMEB AND OTAVI (PRETORIA 2952) AND ON JULY 2
KILLED TWO MORE OF THE FOUR REMAINING, WOUNDING THE OTHER
TWO WHO APPARENTLY ABANDONED EQUIPMENT AND MADE OFF NORTH-
WARD. PRESS REPORTS BASED ON OFFICIAL STATEMENTS PROVIDE
FEW DETAILS OF THIS CHASE WHICH HAS BEEN UNDERWAY SINCE
JUNE 14, BUT THE IMPRESSION IS GIVEN THAT THIS PARTICULAR
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GROUP HAS BEEN CONTROLLED. ONE SECURITY POLICE OFFICER

WAS KILLED IN THE JULY 2 ENCOUNTER.

2. PRESS REPORTED JULY 7 THAT SWAPO GUERRILLAS HAD KILLED AN AFRICAN POLICEMAN ASSIGNED AS BODYGUARD TO PASTOR CORNELIUS NDJOBA, OVAMBO CHIEF MINISTER. THE RAIDERS TOOK THE VICTIM FROM HIS KRAAL, LOCATED A FEW KILOMETERS EAST OF THE OSHIKANGO BORDER POST, MACHINE GUNNED HIM, THEN BAYONETED HIS WIFE AND FOUR YEAR OLD DAUGHTER TO DEATH BEFORE BURNING THE KRAAL. GROUP THEN SHOT ANOTHER OVAMBO IN A NEARBY VILLAGE BEFORE RETURNING INTO ANGOLA. IT ALSO APPARENTLY ABDUCTED A SCHOOL TEACHER, AUGUSTINE KAXUXENA, IN THE COURSE OF THE RAID. NDJOBA DENOUNCED THE RAID AS DESIGNED PURELY FOR TERRORISM, BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN THE SECURITY FORCES AND ADDED THAT HE FELT THE SITUATION WAS MORE UNDER CONTROL NOW THAN IN PAST WEEKS.

3. JULY 8 PRESS REPORTED THAT COMMISSIONER GENERAL DE WET ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AS MANY AS NINE OTHER OVAMBOS MAY HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED IN ADDITION TO KAXUXENA DURING THE PAST WEEK IN THE COURSE OF VARIOUS GUERRILLA RAIDS. HE SAID THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE RUMOR THAT NDJOBA'S BODYGUARD HAD BEEN KILLED BY HIS OWN TWO SONS WHO REPORTEDLY HAD LEFT HOME IN 1974 TO JOIN THE SWAPO GUERRILLA MOVEMENT. DE WET ADDED THAT THE PROCESS OF CLEARING A ONE KILOMETER STRIP ALONG THE BORDER AS A SECURITY ZONE WOULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK.

END UNCLASSIFIED

4. COMMENT: SOME SOURCES HAVE REPORTED THAT SWAPO IS MAKING AN EFFORT TO PINPOINT THOSE WHO INFORM FOR OR COLLABORATE WITH SOUTH AFRICA, AND TO ELIMINATE THEM AS AN OBJECT LESSON FOR OTHER OVAMBOS. A GERMAN ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR WORKING ON DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS IN THE BORDER AREA SAYS SAG FORCES PLAN TO INSTALL SENSING DEVICES IN THE CLEARED STRIP IN AN EFFORT TO CONTROL INFILTRATION, SINCE HUNDREDS OF MILES OF REMOTE TERRITORY ARE INVOLVED AND COULD NOT OTHERWISE BE POLICED. HELICOPTER STRIKE TEAMS WILL RESPOND TO EVIDENCE OF PENETRATION. THE MAGNITUDE OF SAG
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INVESTMENT IN STRENGTHENING SECURITY ALONG THE ANGOLA BORDER, INCLUDING HIGHER TROOP LEVELS AND GENERAL EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF BASE FACILITIES AT GROOTFONTEIN, ONDANGWA, RUACANA, AND AT SEVERAL POINTS IN THE CAPRIVI STRIP INDICATES GREAT ANXIETY ABOUT ANGOLAN INTENTIONS OVER THE LONGER RUN.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, LIBERATION FRONTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PRETOR03031
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760263-1080
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760779/aaaacrijk.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PRETORIA 2952
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: SWAPO GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES
TAGS: PINS, WA, SWAPO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006